

REMARKS

Claims 1, 11-13 and 16 are now pending in the application. As more fully discussed below, Independent Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to include the limitations supported in the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Prior Art Rejections Under 35 USC 102(b)

The Official Action rejected Claims 1, 11-13 and 16 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Trull (hereinafter "Trull"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention of Claim 1 has been amended and is directed to a syringe including a plunger having:

"a plurality of inwardly projecting flanges fixedly disposed on and radially spaced along the inner surface of the cylindrical wall, the plurality of inwardly projecting flanges extending in a longitudinal direction proximal to the retaining shoulder,

wherein the inwardly projecting flanges are continuously supported along the retaining shoulder in the longitudinal direction." Support for the amended can be found in the specification, including at page 69, lines 5-9.

The Office Action indicates that in Figure 4 Trull discloses a syringe having a body and a plunger 24 comprising a wall/base member 80 having an inner surface defining a retaining shoulder 86 and inwardly projecting flanges/connection members 30 which are fixedly disposed on the inner surface of the wall; where at least one retaining member on the drive member is adapted to engage with the retaining shoulder to enable the drive member to retract the plunger... (see Office Action, page 2, para 3).

However, for a prior art reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each and every element of the claim with sufficient clarity to prove its existence in prior art. The disclosure requirement under 35 USC 102 presupposes knowledge of one skilled in art of claimed invention, but such presumed knowledge does not grant

license to read into prior art reference teachings that are not there. See Motorola Inc. v. Interdigital Technology Corp., 43 USPQ2d 1481 (CAFC 1997).

Trull does not teach each and every element of Applicants' claims. Trull discloses in Fig 4 that:

The proximal face 86 of the plunger body includes a circumferential surface portion 88. An array of circumferentially spaced-apart flexible resilient engagement members 30 is joined to the circumferential surface portion 88 of the proximal face of the plunger body and rearwardly extends therefrom to a rearmost extremity 90. Each of the flexible resilient members has a shank portion 92 rearwardly extending from the circumferential surface portion 88 and terminating in a tail hook portion 94 including a transversely and radially inwardly extending retention surface 96 for matably engaging with a rear circumferential surface of the driving head of the injector when the driving head is operatively coupled with the plunger. Each tail hook portion at the retention surface 96 is of increased thickness (in the lateral dimension transverse to the length dimension of the flexible resilient engagement member) relative to the shank portion 92 of such member. The tail hook portion is of tapering character from the region of the retention surface 96 in the rearward direction toward the rearmost extremity 90 thereof, and the tail hook portion has in the embodiment shown a convexly shaped inner engagement surface 98 for contacting the frustoconical shaped driving head to circumferentially compressively engage the frustoconical side surface of the driving head with the transversely and radially inwardly extending retention surface 96 engaged with a rear circumferential surface of the driving head when the driving head is engaged with the plunger. The array of flexible resilient engagement members 30 is circumferentially arranged on the circumferential surface portion 88 of the proximal face 86 of the plunger body so that the flexible resilient engagement members are radially inwardly spaced from the outer circumferentially continuous hedge surface of the plunger. The purpose of such radial inset of the engagement members 30 is so that such engagement members do not contact interior surfaces of the syringe barrel during translation of the plunger forwardly or rearwardly through the syringe barrel. (Col. 7, lines 18-53)

Essentially, Trull discloses flexible resilient engagement members 30 that extend from the circumferential surface portion 88, which is completely different from the "a plurality of inwardly projecting flanges fixedly disposed on and radially spaced along the inner surface of the cylindrical wall, the plurality of inwardly projecting flanges extending in a longitudinal direction proximal to the retaining shoulder, wherein the inwardly projecting flanges are continuously supported along the retaining shoulder in the

"longitudinal direction" of Applicant's invention of Claim 1. The members 30 of Trull are flexible and extend rearwardly such they are not supported along any shoulder or part of the plunger, and further the member 30 project rearwardly from the circumferential portion 88. Thus, Trull does not anticipate Applicants' invention of Claim 1.

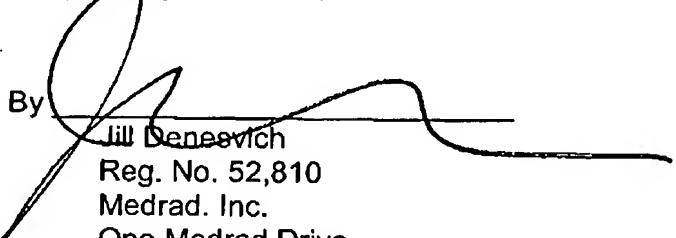
Additionally, Trull does not disclose Applicants' invention of Claim 13, including "a cylindrical wall having an inner surface defining a retaining shoulder formed along an axial length thereof; and

a plurality of inwardly projecting flanges fixedly disposed on the retaining shoulder in a longitudinal direction and spaced along the inner surface of the cylindrical wall." Trull instead discloses a circumferential portion 88 wherein flexible engagement members extend therefrom in a rearward direction. This is entirely different from the novel structure of Applicants' invention of Claim 13. Reconsideration is requested.

Further, regarding Claim 11, 12 and 16, Claim 11, 12 and 16 depend form Claims 11 or 13, which as discussed are believed to be allowable. Accordingly, Claims 11, 12 and 16 are also believed to be allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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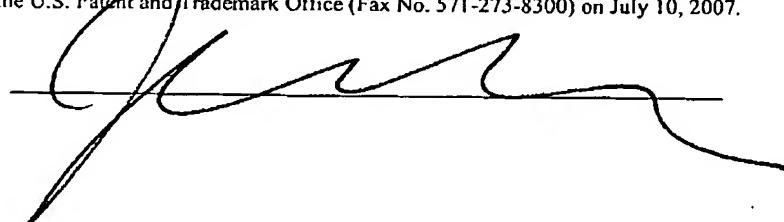
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